

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of commodity selling intermediation comprising the steps of:

causing a customer to input order information related
5 to a plurality of commodities;

referring to commodity selling prices of a plurality
of shops and comparing totals of the prices of the plurality
of ordered commodities in the shops with each other to show
the customer the totals, and causing the customer to select
10 one of the shops as a selling agent; and

placing an order to the shop selected by the customer
through a network on the basis of order contents of the
commodities.

15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the selling
agent selection step, the commodity selling prices of the
plurality of commodities are shown to the customer such that
at least some of the commodities are concealed.

20 3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
the step of comparing transportation fees of the plurality
of forwarding agents related to transportation of a plurality
of ordered commodities and showing the transportation fees
to the customer and causing the customer to select one
25 forwarding agent as a transportation assignee,

wherein, in the ordering step, transportation business is assigned to the selected forwarding agent through the network.

5 4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of inquiring the delivery state of the commodity from the forwarding agent through the network before scheduled time and date for delivery of the commodity included in the order information and, when delivery schedule
10 is changed, notifying the customer that the delivery schedule is changed.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15 transmitting order information related to the plurality of commodities designated by a customer to a server connected through a network;

receiving commodity selling prices which are transmitted from the server in accordance with the
20 transmitted order information and which have a state in which at least some of the plurality of commodities are concealed and the totals of the prices of the plurality of commodities; and

25 displaying the received commodity selling prices which have the state in which at least some of the plurality of

commodities are concealed and the totals of the prices.

6. A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to realize the units of:

an order information input unit which causes a customer to input order information related to a plurality of commodities;

a selling agent selection unit which refers to commodity selling prices of a plurality of shops and comparing totals of the prices of the plurality of ordered commodities in the shops with each other to show the customer the totals, and causing the customer to select one of the shops as a selling agent; and

an ordering unit which places an order to the shop selected by the customer through a network on the basis of order contents of the commodities.

7. A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to realize the units of:

a transmission unit which transmits an order information related to the plurality of commodities designated by a customer to a server connected through a network;

a reception unit which receives commodity selling prices which are transmitted from the server in accordance with the transmitted order information and which have a state in which at least some of the plurality of commodities are
5 concealed and the totals of the prices of the plurality of commodities; and

a display unit which displays the received commodity selling prices which have the state in which at least some of the plurality of commodities are concealed and the totals
10 of the prices.

8. An apparatus for commodity selling intermediation comprising:

an order information input unit which causes a customer
15 to input order information related to a plurality of commodities;

a selling agent selection unit which refers to commodity selling prices of a plurality of shops and comparing totals of the prices of the plurality of ordered
20 commodities in the shops with each other to show the customer the totals, and causing the customer to select one of the shops as a selling agent; and

an ordering unit which places an order to the shop selected by the customer through a network on the basis of
25 order contents of the commodities.

9. An apparatus for commodity selling intermediation comprising:

a transmission unit which transmits an order information related to the plurality of commodities
5 designated by a customer to a server connected through a network;

a reception unit which receives commodity selling prices which are transmitted from the server in accordance with the transmitted order information and which have a state
10 in which at least some of the plurality of commodities are concealed and the totals of the prices of the plurality of commodities; and

a display unit which displays the received commodity selling prices which have the state in which at least some
15 of the plurality of commodities are concealed and the totals of the prices.